

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a mainframe;

a process cartridge loadable in and unloadable from the

5 mainframe; and

an exposure unit that is arranged correspondingly with
the process cartridge;

wherein the process cartridge includes:

a photosensitive body that is exposed by the

10 exposure unit to form an electrostatic latent image
thereon, and

a processing device that acts on the photosensitive body;

and

relative positions of the photosensitive body and the

15 processing device are changeable at the time the process
cartridge is loaded and unloaded.

2. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the photosensitive body includes a plurality of photosensitive

20 bodies corresponding to a plurality of colors.

3. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the processing device faces a surface of the
photosensitive body and acts on the photosensitive body without

25 contacting.

4. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the processing device contacts a surface of the
photosensitive body while acting on the photosensitive body;

5 and

the processing device is separated from the
photosensitive body at the time the process cartridge is loaded
and unloaded.

10 5. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the processing device includes one of a charging
unit that uniformly charges a surface of the photosensitive
body prior to the formation of the electrostatic latent image,
a developing unit that supplies a charged developing agent onto
15 a surface of the photosensitive body on which the electrostatic
latent image is formed to develop the electrostatic latent image,
and a cleaning unit that removes developing agent remaining
on the surface of photosensitive body after a transfer of the
developing agent is performed.

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6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the processing device is a developing unit that
supplies a charged developing agent onto the surface of
photosensitive body on which the electrostatic latent image
25 is formed to develop the electrostatic latent image; and

the process cartridge includes a grip portion disposed on the developing unit.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
5 wherein the main frame includes a guide portion that guides a movement of the process cartridge at the time of loading and unloading.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7,
10 wherein the at least one of the photosensitive body and the processing device have a guided portion fittable with the guide portion; and

the relative positions change due to at least one of the photosensitive body and the predetermined processing device
15 moving along the guide portion.

9. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the process cartridge includes an elastic body disposed between the photosensitive body and the processing
20 device so that, when the process cartridge is removed from the main frame, the relative positions can assume a predetermined positional relation where the process cartridge is easily loaded in the main frame.

25 10. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9,

wherein the predetermined positional relation is a positional relation immediately after the process cartridge has been taken out from the mainframe.

5 11. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9,
wherein the processing device includes a charging unit that uniformly charges a surface of the photosensitive body prior to the formation of the electrostatic latent image and a developing unit that supplies a charged developing agent onto
10 the surface of the photosensitive body on which the electrostatic latent image is formed to develop the electrostatic latent image;
and

the elastic body includes a first elastic body that connects the charging unit with the photosensitive body and
15 a second elastic body that connects the developing unit with the photosensitive body.

12. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the photosensitive body includes a photosensitive
20 drum; and

the processing device relatively moves around an axial line of the photosensitive drum.

13. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
25 wherein the photosensitive body includes a photosensitive

drum; and

the process cartridge is loaded and unloaded in a direction substantially orthogonal to an axial line of the photosensitive drum.

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14. A process cartridge loadable in and unloadable from an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photosensitive body; and

a processing device acting on the photosensitive body;

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wherein relative positions of the photosensitive body and the processing device are changeable when the process cartridge is loaded in and unloaded from the image forming apparatus.

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15. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

wherein the processing device faces a surface of the photosensitive body and acts on the photosensitive body without contacting.

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16. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

wherein the processing device contacts a surface of the photosensitive body while acting on the photosensitive body; and

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the processing device is separated from the photosensitive body at the time the process cartridge is loaded

and unloaded.

17. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

wherein the processing device includes one of a charging
5 unit that uniformly charges a surface of the photosensitive
body prior to the formation of an electrostatic latent image
thereon, a developing unit that supplies a charged developing
agent onto the surface of the photosensitive body on which the
electrostatic latent image is formed to develop the
10 electrostatic latent image, and a cleaning unit that removes
developing agent remaining on the surface of the photosensitive
body after a transfer of the developing agent is performed.

18. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

15 wherein the processing device is a developing unit that
supplies a charged developing agent onto a surface of the
photosensitive body on which an electrostatic latent image is
formed to develop the electrostatic latent image; and

the process cartridge includes a grip portion disposed
20 on the developing unit.

19. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

wherein at least one of the photosensitive body and the
processing device have a guided portion fittable with a guide
25 portion that is provided in the image forming apparatus.

20. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14, further comprising: an elastic body disposed between the photosensitive body and the processing device so that, when the process cartridge is removed from the image forming apparatus, the relative positions can assume a predetermined positional relation where the process cartridge is easily loaded in the image forming apparatus.

21. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 20, wherein the predetermined positional relation is a positional relation immediately after the process cartridge has been taken out from the image forming apparatus.

22. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 20, wherein the processing devices includes a charging unit that uniformly charges a surface of the photosensitive body prior to the formation of an electrostatic latent image and a developing unit that supplies a charged developing agent to the surface of the photosensitive body on which the electrostatic latent image is formed to develop the electrostatic latent image; and

the elastic body includes a first elastic body that connects the charging unit with the photosensitive body and a second elastic body that connects the developing unit with

the photosensitive body.

23. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,
wherein the photosensitive body includes a photosensitive

5 drum; and

the processing device relatively moves around an axial
line of the photosensitive drum.

24. The process cartridge as claimed in claim 14,

10 wherein the photosensitive body includes a photosensitive
drum; and

the process cartridge is loaded and unloaded in a direction
substantially orthogonal to an axial line of the photosensitive
drum.

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25. A image forming apparatus, comprising:

a mainframe having a guide portion;

a process cartridge that is loadable in and unloadable
from the mainframe while being guided by the guide portion,

20 the process cartridge accommodating a photosensitive body and
a processing device that acts on the photosensitive body;

wherein the guide portion guides one of the photosensitive
body and the processing device to shift a position of the one
of the photosensitive body and the processing device relative

25 to the process cartridge when the process cartridge is loaded

in and unloaded from the mainframe.

26. The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further
comprising: an elastic body that is interposed between the
5 photosensitive body and the processing device.